

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4159

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 7285

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IR

SUBJECT: SHAH'S INTERVIEW WITH EGYPTIAN GAZETTE

AT SHAH'S INSTRUCTION, COURT MINISTER ALAM DREW MY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO PASSAGE IN SHAH'S INTERVIEW WITH EGYPTIAN GAZETTE (OCTOBER 3) WHICH IS QUOTED BELOW. POINT SHAH WANTED TO MAKE FOR USG WAS TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE PARTICULAR PASSAGE WAS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO ERADICATE AMONG ARAB LEADERS THE CONCEPTION THAT THE USE OF OIL AS A WEAPON WOULD HAVE ANY EFFECT UPON THE UNITED STATES IN THE SHORT TERM. THE SHAH'S ANSWER TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE USE OF OIL AS A WEAPON TO PRESSURE THE UNITED STATES READS: QUOTE MY OWN APPROACH (ADVICE) TO THE AMERICANS IS TO ADOPT AN EVEN-HANDED POLICY IN THAT CONFLICT. AND I THINK I GOT RECEPTIVE EARS DURING MY VISIT TO THE US. WE SHALL SEE IN THE FUTURE WHAT RECEPTIVE EARS WE HAVE HAD.

TO USE OIL AS A WEAPON--OBVIOUSLY IT CAN BE USED. HOW EFFECTIVE WILL IT BE? THIS I DON'T KNOW AND IT WOULD NEED VERY CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. BECAUSE IT IS MOSTLY

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THE EUROPEANS AND THE JAPANESE WHO ARE USING THE OIL OF

THE MIDDLE EAST, AND MUCH LESS THE AMERICANS. MAYBE IN
FIVE, SIX YEARS' TIME OR SO, THEY MIGHT NEED MORE
OIL, BUT PRESENTLY THIS WON'T HAVE ANY IMMEDIATE EFFECT.

AND IF THE OIL BECOMES MORE EXPENSIVE, AND THIS IS
BOUND TO HAPPEN, IT WILL BE ECONOMICAL TO USE SHALE OIL,
THE TAR AND GASIFICATION OF COAL, AND THEY WILL DO IT
ANYWAY. SO THIS IS A VERY TRICKY QUESTION WHICH REQUIRES
A LOT OF THINKING. UNQUOTE.
HELMS

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NNN

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